



CERT – ified

FROM SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TEAM



CERT-ified is published quarterly—January, April, July and October with “Special Editions” from time to time. Deadline for submitting information is the last Monday of the current quarter. Send all information via email as word document attachments or Jpeg to Editor, Jeanie Knudtson at jeaniekingknud@yahoo.com

July-Aug-Sept 2008

Vol. 8

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING

Scotts Bluff County CERT Team training meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM
Location: Elks Club
Scottsbluff, NE

July 7, 2008

6:00PM Trash Pickup

Meet - K-Mart Parking Lot

July 15, 2008

Disaster Psychology

Aug & Sept--TBA

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**IF YOU ARE
RECEIVING THIS
NEWSLETTER AND
DO NOT WISH TO,
PLEASE LET ME
KNOW.**

Cert_nl@yahoo.com

Active Shooter Drill at WNCC

On Friday April 25, 2008, Western Nebraska Community College was the site of a simulated hostage situation.

Agencies participating in the exercises were WNCC, The Nebraska State Patrol, Scottsbluff Police Dept., Scotts Bluff County CERT team, Scottsbluff Fire Dept, Valley Ambulance and RWMC. Several agencies throughout the Panhandle also participated.

This was just a drill to evaluate how well each agency's incident command and crisis response plan worked should an incident take place here in Scottsbluff such as the one at Virginia Tech in 2007. Members of the Scotts Bluff County Cert Team participated in the drill as “shooters” and other members were in charge of cooking lunch for all the participants.

JUNE CLEANUP TURNS INTO HANDS ON EXPERIENCE!

At about 7:53AM there was a car accident that happened right in front of the CERT team as we were picking up trash near the intersection by Legacy Toyota. Both lanes of Highway 26 had to be closed off. Our team called 911 to report the accident, was able to immediately talk and assess the drivers and passengers of the vehicles in the accident and provided traffic control for the police department. CERT team members were stationed to redirect traffic along east bound Highway 26 and at the entrance to the Highway from the Holiday Inn and Legacy. It was good to see everyone respond in an organized fashion without a lot of confusion. It was great experience that we could not have planned for. The police department commented that they were glad to have the help.*See photos of the CERT team in action below on page 2.*

Check out these Websites:

Panhandle Citizen Corps Network Website www.citizencorpsnetwork.org
(access by Internet Explorer...may not come up on Firefox)
CERT Event Calendar website
<http://www.citizencorps.gov/citizenCorps/eventCalendarMap.do>
Citizen Corp: <http://www.citizencorps.gov>
Citizen Corp Newsletter Archives: www.citizencorps.gov/news/enews
FEMA: www.fema.gov
Information regarding disaster preparedness.
www.ready.gov/america/getakit/familyneeds.html

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OFFICERS 2008-2009

Jennifer Hoevet, President;
Dale Brown, Vice President
Toni Amaya, Secretary;
Randy Olson, Treasurer;

TRAINERS:

Randy Kleager
Randy Olson
Brandon Atchison

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Fiona Libsack

CITIZEN CORP COORDINATOR

Bob Hessler

CERT TEAM TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CODE RED DISPATCH NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Has everyone registered your phone numbers? If not, please go to www.scottsbluffcounty.org, then click on the code red icon and register your phone numbers so that you will be in the system to receive the phone calls.

If you have any problems call Bob on his cell phone and he will walk you through it.

Bob Hessler 631-0076
Scotts Bluff County Citizen Corps/CERT/Point of
Contact/Coordinator/Lead Instructor

CERT DIRECTORY

Jennifer Hoevet and Toni Amaya are working on CERT Directory. If you have not had your picture taken, please email Jennifer with a **current** photo in *.jpg format (photo should be of head and shoulders). Send to jhoevet@oaconsulting.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual Dues are \$15.00 for CERT members. (March 1, 2008 to March 1, 2009)

Those families that have more than one CERT member will pay as follows: 2 members = \$22.50; 3 or more add \$5/pp

Mail dues to: Randy Olson, 5401 Oriole Drive, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

CERT Team Cleanup Turns Into Active Duty At An Automobile Accident on Hwy 26--- June 7, 2008



Members at the June 7, 2008 Cleanup: Randy Kleager; Jamie Scholtz; Gregg Sell; Joy Sanders; Karen Bruntz; Karen Anderson; Lois Olea (friend of Karen Anderson); Rich Jackson; Brandon Atchison; Jeanne Reyes; Jennifer Hoevet

CERT TRAINING MEETING 20 MAY 2008

Evidence Collection and Preservation—Presented by David R. Schleve

Questions to ask:

1. How many people were murdered?
2. How many possible crime scenes are at this location? Where would you search? Analyze the crime scene.
3. What evidence are you going to be looking for?

Kinds of searches

1. Search for evidence in a crime scene
2. Search for evidence involving a dead body
3. Search for evidence involving a missing person
4. Search for evidence involving an escaped prisoner

5 Major Areas of Responsibilities

1. Security: protect the crime scene. You must guard the area.
 - a. Preserve the evidence. If you find something you must protect it. Stay there with it, cover it to protect it from the elements if necessary but do not touch it, photograph it, notify IC.
 - b. Keep EVERYONE OUT! This includes Law enforcement. ANYONE wishing to enter the crime scene area must check in and must be cleared by the IC before entering the area.
2. Safety: protect yourself. Don't do anything that would endanger yourself. Use common sense. When checking the premises, check EVERYWHERE. A suspect may be hiding in the most unlikely place example: under a pile of dirty clothing; in the cabinet under the sink, etc. Be AWARE of your surroundings at all times.
3. Searches: 5 types-- spiral; strip; grid; pie or wheel; and zone.
 - a. Law enforcement will tell you about the case as far as they know.
 - b. NEVER leave your search area to go to another teams search area because they are finding more "evidence" than you are or you may miss a very important piece of evidence in your search area.
 - c. If you find something, relay this to your TEAM LEADER. He/she will then communicate with the officer in charge. Individual members should NOT attempt to communicate directly with the officer. Use the Chain of Command.
4. Evidence:
 - a. Look for something that does NOT belong
 - b. Look for anything that can tie the case together
 - c. Look for anything that will tie the suspect to the crime
 - d. Remember that blood will not look like blood; the elements will change the evidence so document it immediately as you find it and then protect it as described above.
 - e. Remember that it only takes ONE piece of evidence to solve your case.
5. Chain of Custody—if you don't touch it or bag it you're safe—you cannot be accused of tampering with the evidence.

Editor's note: Remember that you must fill out a CERT Team Field Report so take good notes.

CERT TRAINING AND CONTINUED EDUCATION

Trainers are: Randy Kleager; Randy Olsen; Brandon Atchison
VIP Coordinator: Randy Olsen

As a member of CERT it is mandatory that you pass the ICS 100 course from FEMA and then take and pass National Incident Management System (NIMS) training. This class will be offered sometime at a future training but may also be taken online. at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crs/ist.asp>

Course Name: Introduction to Incident Command System I-100

Course Code: IS100

Delivery Type: Self Study

*Notify Bob Hessler when you have completed the course and printed off your Certificate

CERT CLASS June 27&28, 2008

The following five people attended the CERT training class at the Harms Center in Scottsbluff Friday June 27 and 28th. They applied their knowledge on Saturday night during a mock Tornado Disaster Drill on the WNCC grounds. We look forward to having them as "ACTIVE" CERT Team members.

Mia Knotts; Dessie Ramirez; Mark Wittler; Kyle Meininger and Roger Gillming. **Congratulations!!**



Thanks to the Moulage crew for such a realistic job. We had a Highway Patrolman whip a U ready to report a stabbing victim on the sidewalk of WNCC.

Thank you to our young people who volunteered to be the "victims" in this drill.



Saturday May 24, 2008 parts of Scottsbluff lost power. Electrical outages get worse as the summer temperatures rise. While most of the “outages” are not planned, here is information that is very useful in ANY case.....Jeanie Knudtson, editor

Fact Sheet: Safety Information for Short-Term Power Outages or “Rolling Blackouts” http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont1359_lang0_609.pdf

What is a “Rolling Blackout?”

A rolling blackout occurs when a power company turns off electricity to selected areas to save power. The areas are selected using sophisticated computer programs and models. The blackouts are typically for one hour, then the power is restored and another area is turned off.

Hospitals, airport control towers, police stations, and fire departments are often exempt from these rolling blackouts. These blackouts usually occur during peak energy usage times, usually between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, but they can happen at any time of day.

Blackouts may affect the same area more than once a day, and may exceed an hour’s duration.

Top Safety Tips for a Blackout

- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles!
- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.
- Listen to local radio and television for updated information.

How Can I Prepare Before a Blackout Happens?

Assemble essential supplies, including:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Portable radio
- at least one gallon of water
- a small supply of food.
- **Due to the extreme risk of fire, do not use candles during a power outage.**

If you have space in your refrigerator or freezer, consider filling plastic containers with water, leaving about an inch of space inside each one. (Remember, water expands as it freezes, so it is important to leave room in the container for the expanded water). Place the containers in the refrigerator and freezer. This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold if the power goes out, by displacing air that can warm up quickly with water or ice that keeps cold for several hours without additional refrigeration.

If you use medication that requires refrigeration, most can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.

If you use a computer, keep files and operating systems backed up regularly. Consider buying extra batteries and a power converter if you use a laptop computer. A power converter allows most laptops (12 volts or less)

to be operated from the cigarette lighter of a vehicle. Also, turn off all computers, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners and other devices when they're not being used. That way, if the power goes out, this equipment will have already been safely shut down. Get a high quality surge protector for all of your computer equipment. If you use the computer a lot, such as for a home business, consider purchasing and installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). Consult with your local computer equipment dealer about available equipment and costs.

If you have an electric garage door opener, find out where the manual release lever is located and learn how to operate it. Sometimes garage doors can be heavy, so get help to lift it. **If you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home upon return from work, be sure to keep a key to your house with you, in case the garage door will not open.**

If you have a telephone instrument or system at home or at work that requires electricity to work (such as a cordless phone or answering machine), plan for alternate communication, including having a standard telephone handset, cellular telephone, radio, or pager. Remember, too, that some voice mail systems and remote dial-up servers for computer networks may not operate when the power is out where these systems are located. So even if you have power, your access to remote technology may be interrupted if the power that serves those areas is disrupted. Check with remote service providers to see if they have backup power systems, and how long those systems will operate.

Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible, which can help power company(ies) avoid imposing rolling blackouts.

Specific Information for People With Disabilities

If you use a battery-operated wheelchair, life-support system, or other power-dependent equipment, call your power company before rolling blackouts happen. Many utility companies keep a list and map of the locations of power-dependent customers in case of an emergency. Ask them what alternatives are available in your area. Contact the customer service department of your local utility company(ies) to learn if this service is available in your community.

If you use a motorized wheelchair or scooter, have an extra battery. A car battery also can be used with a wheelchair but will not last as long as a wheelchair's deep-cycle battery. If available, store a lightweight manual wheelchair for backup.

If you are Blind or have a visual disability, store a talking or Braille clock or large-print timepiece with extra batteries.

If you are Deaf or have a hearing loss, consider getting a small portable battery-operated television set. Emergency broadcasts may give information in American Sign Language (ASL) or open captioning.

Using a Generator

If you are considering obtaining a generator, get advice from a licensed professional, such as an electrician. Make sure the generator is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories or a similar organization. Some municipalities, Air Quality Districts, or states have "air quality permit" requirements. A licensed electrician will be able to give you more information on these matters. Always plan to keep the generator outdoors -- never operate it inside, including the basement or garage. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and back feeding power to your home is an unsafe method to supply a building during a power outage.

For more information about using generators safely, see the [Generator fact sheet](#).

What Do I Do During A Blackout?

Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment (like air conditioners) or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, it may come back with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage equipment such as computers and motors in appliances like the air conditioner, refrigerator, washer, or furnace.

Leave one light turned on so you'll know when your power returns.

Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage. [See the Red Cross brochure called, "Help The Power Is Out"](#) for more information.

Use the phone for emergencies only. Listening to a portable radio can provide the latest information. Do not call 9-1-1 for information -- only call to report a life-threatening emergency.

Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic signals will stop working during an outage, creating traffic congestion.

Remember that equipment such as automated teller machines (ATMs) and elevators may not work during a power outage.

If it is hot outside, take steps to remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home, as cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty. If the heat is intense and the power may be off for a long time, consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall, or "cooling shelter" that may be opened in your community. Listen to local radio or television for more information. Get more tips on the preparing for a [heat wave](#).

Remember to provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pets.

If it is cold outside, put on layers of warm clothing. **Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.** Never use your oven as a source of heat. If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (relative, friend, or public facility) that has heat to keep warm.

Energy Conservation Recommendations

- To conserve power to help avoid a blackout, the power industry recommends:
- In heating season, set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower. In cooling season, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. Consider installing a programmable thermostat that you can set to have the furnace or air conditioning run only when you are at home. Most power is used by heating and cooling, so adjusting the temperatures on your thermostat is the biggest energy conservation measure you can take.
- Turn off lights and computers when not in use. This is especially true about computer monitors - avoid using a "screen saver" and just simply turn the monitor off when you won't be using the computer for a while. Turn the computer off completely each evening. It is no longer true that computer equipment is damaged from turning it off and on.
- Close windows when the heating or cooling system is on.
- Caulk windows and doors to keep air from leaking, and replace old windows with new, energy-efficient windows.
- Clean or replace furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly.

- When buying new appliances be sure to purchase energy-efficient models.
- Wrap the water heater with an insulation jacket, available at most building supplies retailers.
- If you have to wash clothes, wash only full loads and clean the dryer's lint trap after each use.
- When using a dishwasher, wash full loads and use the "light" cycle. If possible, use the "rinse only" cycle and turn off the "high temperature" rinse option. When the regular wash cycle is done, just open the dishwasher door to allow the dishes to air dry.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights.
- Use one large light bulb rather than several smaller ones.

For More Information

If you would like more information about rolling blackouts and how to deal with them, contact the power company that serves your area.